wcgs news

Volume XII No. 11 November 2001

Obituaries:

Veronica Jones Haskett's mother, Ella Louise "Eloise" Stevenson Jones, died 14 October 2001 in Plymouth. She was born 16 November 1923 in Pasquotank County, NC and was the daughter of the late Arthur Blount and Claudia Estelle Outlaw Stevenson. Her husband of 49 years, Ronald Lee Jones, Jr., died in 1989. In addition to Veronica and her husband, Vance, Mrs. Jones was survived by a son, Donald Parker Jones and wife, Nellie, of Chesapeake, VA, and a half-brother, Thomas Hunter, Virginia Beach; by five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Sisters Grace Tadas, Claudia Waff, Elizabeth Pritchard, Audrey Hunter and her brother, William Stevenson, preceded her in death.

Mrs. Jones was a member of the Plymouth Church of God and had shared in a six-county nursing home ministry. Burial was in West Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery after a funeral at Twiford's Memorial Chapel, Elizabeth City.

WCGS offers condolences to the family and to those nursing home residents who had been blessed by Mrs. Jones ministry.

Rosalie Smith, 92, died 8 October 2001 in White Plains, NY; she was buried at First Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Roper and was the daughter of the late Octavis Smith and Annie Change Smith. Survivors: sisters Minnie Lee Smith, NY; Mattie Elizabeth Garrett, Roper; Arnita Cooper, Plymouth; brothers Octavis & Cofield Smith of Plymouth. She was buried at First Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Roper on 13 October.

Beatrice Williams Clagon, 90, died 8 October 2001; she was born 10 October 1910, Washington Co., daughter of the late Thomas Williams and Mary Bell Thomas; she is survived by a son, Nathaniel Thomas and was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Clagon. She was buried at Bethel Church of Christ Disciples of Christ cemetery.

Randolph Ray Minton, the first Washington County man to be drafted in World War II, died 14 October 2001 in Plymouth. He was born 16 December 1919 in Roanoke, VA, son of the late Frank Lee and Exie Rae Minton. He had served five years with the U. S. Army in Europe and Africa and had earned two Purple Hearts, seven Bronze Stars, one Silver Star medal. He was retired from Georgia Pacfic Corporation and is survived by Eva Marriner Minton, his wife of 55 years; his son, Steven Minton; two daughters, Jane Heron and Lou Ann Fruge and a brother, N. Ray Piercy. He was buried in Windley Cemetery after a funeral at Grace Episcopal Church. (Obituary, Roanoke Beacon, 17 October 2001)

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PAST MASTERS

On 9th November 2001, members of Perseverance Lodge No. 59 A. F & A. M. held the annual Past Masters Banquet at the lodge hall in Plymouth. Masons and their invited guests noted the charter date of 1811, making this lodge the oldest men's organization in Washington County. The roll of men from the county who have served the lodge includes:

John E. Parker*
Ezekiel Hardison*
Benjamin B. Hunter*
Ezekiel Potter*
Francis Ward*
Levi Fagan*
Peter Picott*

Thomas Pender*	
Joseph R. Ramsey*	
Thomas B. Nichols*	
E. F. Fagan*	
James G. Norman*	
Harry B. Short*	
Isaac Kelly*	
William Barkler*	
N. D. Norcam*	
J. W. Latham*	
R. S. Golet	1887*
J.W. Rose	1903*
A. L. Owens	1904*
W. J. Jackson	1905*
P. C. Worley	1906/7/8*
C. J. Everett	1909/10*
Clarence Latham	1911*
J. K. Campbell	1912/13*
R. P. Walker	1914*
W. R. Hampton	1915*
Van B. Martin	1916*
T. W. Snell	1917*
Zeb V. Norman	1918*
H. C. Spruill	1919*
W. B. Watts	1920*
John W. Darden	1921/2*
J. R. Campbell	1923/5*
T. C. Burgess	1924*
Harry Stell	1926*
J. B. Willoughby	1927*
J. T. Terry	1928*
B. G. Campbell	1929*
J. Dixon	1930*
C. T. Robbins	1931/2*
F. O. Watkins	1933*
R. H. Lucas	1934*
W. M. Darden	1935*
E. H. Liverman	1936/40*
L. T. Rose	1937*
C. McGowan	1938*
H. H. McLean	1939*
L. A. Larkins	1941*
J .L. Knowles	1942*
J. W. Norman	1943*
E. L. Owens	1944*
E. D. Keel	1945*
H. H. Allen	1946*
W. S. Bowen	1947*
C. W. Dinkins	1948*
L. E. Doxie	1949*
W.A. Roebuck	1950*
W. C. Hall	1951
W .R. Harden	1952*
G. R. Leggett Sr.	1953*
Harry Garrett	1954*
Hilton Dunbar	1955*
W. C. Chesson	1956/70*
J. M. Gilreath	1957
G. R. Leggett Jr.	1958
Jack B. Latham	1959*
Dan K. Pittman	1960*
H.S. Tetterton	1961
Wendell Ange	1962*
J. F. Davenport	1963
Puttnam Landing Jr.	1964 *
A. J. Newberry	1965*
R. M. Armstrong	1966*
Fred Davenport	1967
F. C. Bickerstaff	1968**
Hallet S. Davis	1969
Phillip L. Swinson	1971
W. C. Styons	1972*
Alton O. Gurganus	1973
Gene Hardison	1974
Harold R. Phelps	1975/77*
Estes Rentz	1978/79/81
John O. Shytle	1980
William. B. Blackburn	1982/84
Marvin F. Ange	1983
Ronald McKimmey	1985
Harrison W. Phelps	1986
Sam W. Rogers	1987 and 1992
Jeffrey L. Davis Sr.	1988
Gary Sherwood	1989
Sam M. Carpenter	1990
Lloyd J. Nobles	1991
Howard Simpson	1993
Rodger Cratch	1994
David Sloan	1995
Gene Roberts	1996
Jerry Evan Davenport	1997-98
Samuel Emmons Phelps Jr.	1999

Luther Clyde Jett, Jr. 2000

The Following Affiliated Past Masters Have Served in Other Lodges: E. F. Bagans*; Ed H. Hill* James A. Holbrook* ; H.L. Barnhill*; Dr. Claye Frank;Samuel E. Phelps Jr.

* - Deceased

A TECHNIQUE FOR PUZZLES

Like many family historians working on eastern North Carolina ancestors who lived in the 1600s through the early 1800s, ten years ago I became frustrated trying to identify mine. The various spellings of Chesson-like last names, and the custom of naming children for fathers, grandfathers, mothers, grandmothers, queens of England, plus the shifting county boundaries and the scarcity of public records, all created a massive puzzle. I had encountered Chason, Chaston, Chastone, Cheaston, and Chesson, to name a few.

In 1991 I took the 35 to 40 references on my shelves for Perquimans, Pasquotank, Albemarle, Chowan, Tyrrell, Washington, Martin, Onslow, and other counties, and checked them for all the Chesson-like entries that could be found. Each listing was then entered into a single document in my computer, quoting the detail of that entry, date of event, and referencing its source and page.

The result was over 800 separate notes with various spellings of "Chesson." There were also many first names, plus names of spouses, children, and siblings.

An indexing program allowed me to sort those entries in several ways and to find any selected two words within a given number of words -- such as "Samuel" within ten words of "Priscilla." I sorted first names - John, James, Roger, Mary, Elizabeth, - and rearranged each of those sorts chronologically. Then I analyzed each separate first name listing to determine whether there were one or more persons of that name living at the same time and whether it seemed reasonable to assume relationships. For example, what spousal names appeared in those citations? When was there a death, marriage, deed, or court case? What other names were connected with the same events? This provided a way to separate different people with the same first name regardless of how the last name was spelled in the records. After studying these I found some entries that did not seem to belong ("Chester" for example) and some last names that seemed to vary with time but that appeared to apply to the same persons or their heirs. Using this analysis, I then put together families with some assurance that these were appropriate connections.

It would be even better to augment the above technique by "following the land," and there are computer programs that will aid in plotting land grants, deeds, and the like. Information about the acquiring, selling, deeding, subdividing, and willing of land often can resolve confusion in reconstructing families and determining relatives.

However, to do that research requires access to many documents (best done using NC Archives, Raleigh), and is not feasible for me in Arizona. This technique of collecting large numbers of citations for a particular surname and then sorting the results can be a solution to an otherwise puzzling problem. (Eugene Chesson; gchesson@cableone.net - August 2001)

From our mailboxes:

Richard W. Winesett is researching: Elsie Ruth Hardison Winesett, Richard Goodman Hardison, Elsie Warner Gaylord Hardison; Celia Catherine Davis Hardison and Ira Tilgman Hardison, James Harrison Gaylord, Eliza Jordan Sanderson Gaylord and Richard Hardison. He is interested in Harry Fagan from Plymouth who was president of the First National Bank, Fort Myers, Fl. ("where my office is located now") from 1934 until after 1960. (rickwinesett@yahoo.com)

Vernon L. Everett, Jr. : "Nathaniel and Mary (Mitchell) Harrison Everett of Tyrrell (Now Washington) County, North Carolina and Some of Their Descendants and Related Families" Volume * and Volume II (800+ pgs, full index, map, color photos compiled & written by Jane Stubbs Bailey & Vernon L. Everett, Jr. now available. Order from VLE - cost is $50 plus $7.50 p/h. Less than 30 copies remain. (11425 Dews Plantation Rd, Ivor VA 23866) VLE notes the book covers "Ayers, early Harrisons, Hoff, Swanner and others"

Record of Marriages in Washington County, N.C.

Page 90 - "A" YEAR 1872

Henry Alexander - Mary Jane Nicholls

Henry Alexander (29-W) of Tyrrell County, North Carolina, and Mary Jane Nicholls (26-W), of Scuppernong Township, Washington County, N. C., by Luther Eborn, Minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church; at St. David's Church in Scuppernong Township, Washington Co., N.C. License: Decr. 10th; Celebration: Decr. 19th. Witnesses: Ann C. Davenport, S. A. Eborn, Desdemona Eborn; all of Washington Co. N.C.

Benjamin F. Ambrose - Harriet Phelps

Benjamin F. Ambrose (50-W) of Scuppernong Township, Washington County, N.C., and Harriet Phelps (33-W), Scuppernong Township, Washington Co., N.C., by Stephen Biggs, Minister of the Gospel, at Alex. McCabe's, Scuppernong Township, Washington Co., N.C. License: Decr 7th; Celebration: Decr. 8th. Witnesses: Elder Stephen Biggs, J. F. Arnold, W. S. Ambrose, all of Washington County.

YEAR 1873

Solomon Armstrong - Cary Ann Norman

Solomon Armstrong (25-W) of Scuppernong Township, Washington Co., N.C., and Cary Ann Norman (21-W) of Skinnersville Township, Washington Co., N.C., by Joshua B. Davenport, J.P., in Skinnersville Township, Washington Co. N.C. License: August 12th; Celebration August 14th. Witnesses: A. C. Norman, June Norman, M. I. Davenport, all of Washington, N.C. ??

John Wesley Aldred - Henrietta Caroline Stillman

John Wesley Aldred (W 22) of Lees Mills Township, Washington Co, NC and Henrietta Caroline Stillman (W 21) of Lees Mills Township, Washington Co, NC by W M Davis, Minister of the Gospel, at W.Stillman's residence in Lees Mills Township, Washington County, N C; Witnesses: W.T.Tetterton, W.T. Burgess, both of Washington County, N C. License: August 13th 1873; Celebration Aug 14th 1873.

Carlisle Alford - Martilla Roberts

Carlisle Alford (36-B) Scuppernong Township, Washington Co., NC; and Martilla Roberts (20-B), Scuppernong Township by Josh. B. Davenport, J. P. License: 9 October 1873; celebration: 30 October 1873; At Solomon Roberts in Scuppernong Township, Washington Co., NC; witness: James Alexander of Washington Co., NC.

YEAR 1874

Samuel Alexander - Rhoda Mann

Samuel Alexander (33-B)and Rhoda Mann (20 B) - no other info

David Alexander - Any C. Marriner

David Alexander (35-W) Scuppernong Township, Tyrrell County, NC.and Any C. Marriner (33-W) of Lees Mills Township, Washington Co., NC by Wm. S. Maget??, Missionary Baptist Minister; License: 24 November 1874; celebration 26 November 1874 at residence of bride's father in Lees Mills Township, Wash. Co., NC; Witnesses: W. A. Alexander of Scuppernong; W. S. Spruill of Lees Mills. Alfred Alexander of Scuppernong.

YEAR 1875

Andrew Angiley - Matilda Stillman

Andrew Angiley (23-W) Lees Mills Township and Matilda Stillman (22-W), Scuppernong Township, by Franklin Spruill, J. P. License: 8 January 1875; celebration 14 January 175; at Wm. H. Barne, Scuppernong Township, Witnesses: Wilson Atfield; Alexinor V. Davenport, Anna I. Davenport all of Washington Co., NC.

Jeremiah Alexander - Hester Nicholls

Jeremiah Alexander (65-Colored) of Lees Mills Township and Hester Nicholls (23-Colored) by Nathan H. Spruill, J. P. License: 4 February 1875; celebration: 4th February 1875 at Thomas N. Spruill's in Lees Mills Township in Washington Co., NC Witnesses: R. D. Macnair; John S. Craft, both of Washington Co., NC.

Ashbury Washington Arnold - Mary E. Bateman

Ashbury Washington Arnold (41-W) Plymouth Township and Mary E. Bateman (24-W) Plymouth Township; by N. H. Harrison, Minister of the Baptist Denomination; License 18 February 1875; celebration 18th February at the brides mothers in Plymouth Township; witnesses: John Singletin, Beaufort Co., George Bowen, Washington Co., ? Bateman, Washington Co., NC.

(Index page 91):

Joseph Johnson Ansley - Ann Jennette Knight

Joseph Johnson Ansley (22-W), Lees Mills Township, and Ann Jennette Knight (19-W), Lees Mills township by Sam'l B. Snell, J. P., License: 5th October; Celebration: 5th October 1875 at Nancy Ansley's House, Lees Mills Township; Witnesses: J. W. Wynne?, M. B. Garrett, both of Washington Co., NC.

John W. Allsbrooks - Lucy Catharine Williams

John W. Allsbrooks, (25-W), Martin Co., NC and Lucy Catharine Williams, (20-W) Plymouth Township, by Jno. S. Short, Minister of the Gospel of the M. E. Church South; License: 3rd November 1875; Celebration: 4th November 1875; at Saml T. (?) Williams, Washington County and in Plymouth Township; Witness: Brryant Bennett, Plymouth, Jno Purvis of Williamston, annd David T. House of do. (Williamston)

William Standly Armstrong - Elizabeth Baxter

William Standly Armstrong (24-W), Lees Mills Township, and Elizabeth Baxter (W-19), Lees Mills Township by Samuel B. Snell, J. P., License: 21st December 1875; Celebration 26th December 1875 at the house of Nancy Goodman in Lees Mills township; Witness: Horatis S. Snell, E. S. Cahoon, J. Tynch, all of Washington County.

YEAR 1876

John D. Ambrose - Ann John Sivils

John D.? Ambrose (W-24), Lees Mills Township and Ann John Sivils (W17) of Plymouth Township) (written consent of mother filed) by Joseph E. Adams, Minister Primitive Babtist Denomination; License: 4th January 1876; Celebration: 5th January 1876 at the residence of Wilson Ambrose, Plymouth Twp., ; Witness:William S. Ambrose, William G. Cooper, Angelo? ? Spruill, all of Washington Co., NC.

John Austin - Eliza Swanner

John Austin (54-C), Plymouth Twp., and Eliza Swanner (50-C), Plymouth Twp., by Alford Pettiford, A Minister of Gospel of the Disciple Church; License: 7th March 1876; Celebration 13 March 1876 at 3 o'clock in Washington County, N.C. Witness: Alfred Austin, Harry Austin, Eliza Haughton.

Edward W. Ayers, Sr. - Ann Hassel

Edward W. Ayers, Sen. (55-W), Plymouth Twp., and Ann Hassel, (45-w), Plymouth Twp., by N. H. Harrison, Minister of the Primitive Baptist Church; License: 13th April 1876; Celebration: 13th April at the residence of Jos. E. Corprew in Plymouth. Witness: J. E. Corprew, Edward Hassel, Wm.? F. Skittlethorpe, all of Washington Co., NC

John M. Alexander - Sarah M. Sawyer

John M. Alexander (31-W), Lees Mills twp., and Sarah M. Sawyer (20-W) Lees Mills Twp. by A. N. Vail, J. P., License: 26 June 1876; Celebration: 26 June 1876 at the residence of Simeon Sawyer, Lees Mills Twp., Witness: thomas S. Sawyer, Simeon Sawyer, Samuel S. Sawyer, all of Washington Co., NC.

Louis F. Allen - Rebeckah A. Ayers

Louis F. Allen (20-W), Plymouth Twp., and Rebeckah A. Ayers (17-W), Plymouth Twp., by N. H. Harrison, Minister of the Primitive Baptist Church at the residence of the bride's father, Plymouth Twp., NC; License: 23rd Dec. 1876 -Celebration: 30th Dec., 1876; Witness: Will Weed, Asa R. Allen, Robt. A. Ayers, all of Washington Co., NC

YEAR 1877

Robert A. Ayers - Ettie U. Allen

Robert A. Ayers, (20-W) Plymouth Twp., and Ettie U. Allen (18-W), Plymouth Twp., by N. H. Harrison, Minister of the Primative Baptist Church at the residence of the bride's father, Plymouth Twp., License: 2nd January 1877; Celebration: 4th January 1877; witness: William Weed, Louis Allen, E. W. Ayers, all of Washington Co., NC.

Ebenezer Wilson Ayers - Jennie B. Keith

Ebenezer Wilson Ayers, (27-W), Plymouth Twp., and Jennie B. Keith (19-W), Plymouth Twp., by S. M. Davis, Minister of the M. E.Church South, in Plymouth, Plymouth Twp., License 29th January 1877; Celebration 30 January 1877; witness: J. W. Piercy, J. S. Chesson, Wm. C. Ayers, all of Washington Co., NC

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Joseph S. Allen - Alwiler Spruill

Joseph S. Allen, (24-W), Plymouth Twp., and Alwiler Spruill (16-W), Plymouth Twp., by N. H. Harrison, a Minister of the Baptist Church at the residence of the Bride's Father, Plymouth Twp., License: 8th March 1877; Celebration: 10 March 1877; witness: Sam Osborne of Beaufort Co.,

Thomas Allen and Julian Allen, Washington Co., NC.(consent of father filed)

Joseph G. Ausborne - Palcie Elizabeth Jackson

Joseph G. Ausborne (40-W), Plymouth Twp., and Polcie Elizabeth Jackson (20-W) by William Gray, a Baptist Minister, at the residence of the Bride's mother in Plymouth Twp., license: 13 March 1877; celebration: 14th March 1877; witness: Daniel Garrett, J. P. Jackson, Mc. G. Ausborne all of Washington Co., NC.

Silas Alexander - Sarah King

Silas Alexander (27-C), Scuppernong Twp., and Sarah King (18-C), (written consent of father & mother filed) Scuppernong Twp., by D. L. Simmons, Minister of the Colored Baptist Church at the Methodist Church in Scuppernong Twp., license: 5th April 1877; celebration: 13 April 1877; witness: Joh Tredwell, Washington Co., James Luois, Tyrrell Co., and E. H. Hill, Tyrrell Co., NC.

Jordan Armistead - Fanny Guyther

Jordan Armistead (23-C) , Plymouth Twp., and Fanny Guyther (18-C), Plymouth Twp., (written consent of mother filed) bby N. L. Overton, a minister of the A. M. E. Zion church at the residence of Lucinda Askew, Plymouth Township; license: 22 May 1877; celebration 22nd May 1877; witness: A. Hicks, Jr., Lemuel Williams, John Jones, all of Washington Co., NC.

Joshua Franklin Ayers - Mary E. Griffieth

Joshua Franklin Ayers (31-W), Plymouth Twp., and Mary E. Griffieth (32-W), Plymouth Twp., by L. M. Davis, a minister of the M. E. Church at the residence of B. J. Norcum in Plymouth Twp.; license and celebration: 20th Nov 1877; witness: W. C. ayers, B. J. Norccum, Cottie Ausbon, all of Washington Co., NC.

William Thomas Ambrose - Eliza Moore

William Thomas Ambrose (23-W) and Eliza Moore (20-W), both of Plymouth Twp., by Brryant Bennett, a Justice of the Peace at the residence of the bride's father, Plymouth Twp., license and celebration: 5th December 1877; witness: Theo. M. Gray, Wm. Gray, Henry W. Harrison, all of Washington Co., NC.

William Stuart Ambrose - Annie E. White

William Stuart Ambrose (22-W), Lees Mills Twp., and Annie E. White (18-W) (note: beside 18 - "out"), Plymouth Twp., by Jos. G. Gurganus, a Minister of the desciple Church at the residence of Wm. C. Weed in Plymouth Twp., Washington Co., NC; license: 18 December 1877; celebration: 19 December 1877; witness: R. J. Bateman, W. C. Weed, J. D. Ambrose, all of Washington Co., NC.

YEAR 1878

Joseph Bailey Ambrose - Sarah Louisa Barnes

Joseph Bailey Ambrose (21-W) and Sarah Louisa Barnes, both of Scuppernong Twp., by Joshua B. Davenport, a Justice of the Peace at the residence of Louis Smith, Scuppernong Twp., license: 26th February 1878, celebration 28th February 1878; witness: James I. Ambrose, L. M. Powers, Hardy Long, all of Washington Co., NC.

Jesse N.? Ambrose - Nancy A. Phelps

Jesse N.? Ambrose (21-W) and Nancy A. Phelps (31-W) both of Scuppernong Twp., by Alex Armstrong, a Justice of the Peace at the residence of the bride, Suppernong Twp., license: 19th August 1878; celebration 19th September 1878; witness: David Furlough, Wm. S. Spruill and C. F. Woodley, all of Washington Co., NC.

Estridge S. Adams - Jennie Maitland

Estridge S. Adams (27-C) and Jennie Maitland (19-C) both of Plymouth Twp., by Sam. W. Latham, a Justice of the Peace at the Col. M. E. Church in Plymouth Twp.,; license and celebration: 2nd October 1878; witness: David Fagan, E. James and Joseph Maitland, all of Washington Co., NC.

Notes from the Editor

Many of you have already discovered marriages and many other records online; I had started transcribing marriages some years ago and after discussion with WCGS officers, decision was made to include in the newsletters. If you have questions, corrections, etc., let me know.

Our next meeting is third Sunday in January; we will not have a speaker but do have an excellent one lined up for early 2002 - more in December.

If you've not paid 2002 dues, please note your last issue of WCGS News will be December 2001!

We need YOUR contributions to WCGS News!